

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 6254 FINAL SECTION OF 2

EXDIS

PASS DEFENSE SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR ASD/ISA ELLSWORTH

BURDEN FUTURE RELATIONS WITH US. IF US WANTS TO MAKE AVAILABLE MODERN ARMS SUCH AS ARTILLERY, MISSILES AND NAVAL MATERIEL, YUGOSLAVS MAY BUY THEM FROM US RATHER THAN OTHER PLACES IF PRICES AND OTHER CONDITIONS ARE SUITABLE. TO ELLSWORTH'S QUERY LJUBICIC SAID THEY WERE INTERESTED IN ALL KINDS OF MISSILES, EVEN SURFACE-TO-SURFACE, AND BY NAVAL MATERIEL HE MEANT SMALL, FAST MISSILE BOATS SUITABLE FOR THE ADRIATIC.

8. ELLSWORTH INDICATED US PREPARED TO CONSIDER YUGOSLAV INTEREST IN THESE THREE AREAS. US READY TO ACCEPT YUGOSLAVIA AS IT IS -- A SOCIALIST, NONALIGNED COUNTRY WISHING TO BE FREE AND FULLY INDEPENDENT. SPEAKING FRANKLY, IT IS IN US NATIONAL INTEREST FOR YUGOSLAVIA TO BE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT, INCLUDING INDEPENDENT OF US. AT SAME TIME WE EXPECT YUGOSLAVS TO ACCEPT US AS IT IS - A SUPER POWER WITH WORLDWIDE RESPONSIBILITIES, E.G., IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IN THIS AND OTHER AREAS, US SOMETIMES FEELS NONALIGNED STATES HAVE FORMED BLOC AGAINST US INTERESTS.

9. LJUBICIC RESPONDED THAT YUGOSLAVS ARE NEITHER ANTI-US NOR ANTI-SOVIET. THEY HAD DISAGREED WITH THE SOVIETS RE CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND DISAGREE WITH THE BULGARIANS BEING ARMED SO HEAVILY. AS FOR FOREIGN POLICY, YUGOSLAVS DISAGREE WITH US OVER MANY THINGS AND SAY IT OPENLY, BUT THEY DO NOT WANT TO ARGUE WITH US. PERHAPS THE US COULD FIND A DIFFERENT WAY TO CONTACT NONALIGNED COUNTRIES SO THEY WOULDN'T DIFFER SO MUCH WITH US. BREZHNEV USED TO ATTACK THE NONALIGNED, BUT NOW SEEKS

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THEM AS FRIENDS.

10. TURNING TO PRESSURES AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA, LJUBICIC SAID YUGOSLAVS NEED NO HELP NOW, THEY HAVE THE FORCE TO OPPOSE ANY AGGRESSIVE PRESSURE. EVEN IN CASE OF OPEN AGGRESSION YUGOSLAVS DON'T WANT FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES -- THIS APPLIES TO US AND SOVIETS. YUGOSLAVS WOULD NOT LIKE IDEA OF SOVIET DIVISIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA IN A WAR WITH ITALY ANY MORE THAN US DIVISIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA IN A WAR WITH BULGARIANS. AS IS KNOWN, WHEN MILITARY FORCES COME INTO A COUNTRY (ESPECIALLY FROM A GREAT POWER) THEY ARE HARD TO GET RID OF.

11. LJUBICIC WISHED TO POINT OUT IN THIS CONNECTION THAT EXERCISES SUCH AS THOSE IN WHICH US SHIPS RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN THE ADRIATIC (DUTY FAN) DO NOT SUIT YUGOSLAV INDEPENDENCE AND NONALIGNED POLICY. YUGOSLAVS ARE AFRAID TOMORROW OTHERS WILL COME IN THE SAME WAY. IF THEY DON'T OPPOSE US NOW, THEY CAN'T OBJECT TO THEM TOMORROW. THE MEDITERRANEAN IS BIG ENOUGH FOR BOTH US AND USSR EXERCISES, AND ADRIATIC SHOULD BE LEFT TO ITALIANS AND YUGOSLAVS FOR THEIR EXERCISES. PEACEFUL VISITS TO YUGOSLAV PORTS ARE OF COURSE ACCEPTED AND WELCOMED, BUT LARGE EXERCISES ARE NOT GOOD FOR YUGOSLAVIA.

12. ON QUESTION OF YUGOSLAV UNITY, SUMONJA (WHO RAISED ISSUE) SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION THIS A US PREOCCUPATION. YUGOSLAVS FEAR WE HAVE INTELLIGENCE REPORTS WHICH FOCUS ON YUGOSLAV WEAKNESS FROM WHICH WRONG CONCLUSIONS COULD BE DRAWN. THIS IS WRONG, BECAUSE EVEN DURING WORLD WAR II WITH COLLABORATORS IN COUNTRY ENEMY WAS NOT ABLE TO DIVIDE YUGOSLAVS. LJUBICIC ADDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CRISIS IN 1970-72 PERIOD, BUT THIS NOW SOLVED. DIFFERING VIEWS OF COURSE REMAIN, BUT THESE PRIMARILY ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. AMBASSADOR TOON INTERJECTED AT THIS POINT TO SAY HE HAS CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE OF YUGOSLAVIA AND HAS SO REPORTED TO WASHINGTON.
TOON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DEFENSE.

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